AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the abstract as follows:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TRANSFERRING MULTIPLE PACKETS FROM HARDWARE

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for facilitating transfer of packets from communication hardware ~~(e.g., a network interface circuit)~~ to a host computing device or software ~~executing on the device (e.g., a device driver). If header splitting is enabled, packet headers are packed in a hybrid buffer while payloads are stored in payload buffers. For each packet, one or more completion lines are written in the hybrid buffer.~~ After receiving s set of packets at a communication interface, ~~One type of the system writes in a hybrid buffer a type II completion line configured to identify~~identifies ~~the~~ a payload buffer in which payloads of ~~one or more subsequent~~ packets are stored. ~~Another,~~ For each packet,~~per packet,~~ the system writes a type I~~of~~ completion line configured to indicate~~s~~ the length of a packet's header in the hybrid buffer and the length and/or offset of the packet's payload in the~~a~~ payload buffer. A type 0~~null~~ completion line indicates that no more packets ~~completion lines or packet headers~~ are stored in the payload buffer. The system then signals the host computing device by configuring a single completion descriptor to identify the hybrid buffer in which the completion lines are stored. The host computing device reads the single completion descriptor to process the packets. ~~Without header splitting, entire packets are stored in the same buffer as their corresponding completion lines.~~